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# Iraq

## Status Report

February 3, 2010



Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

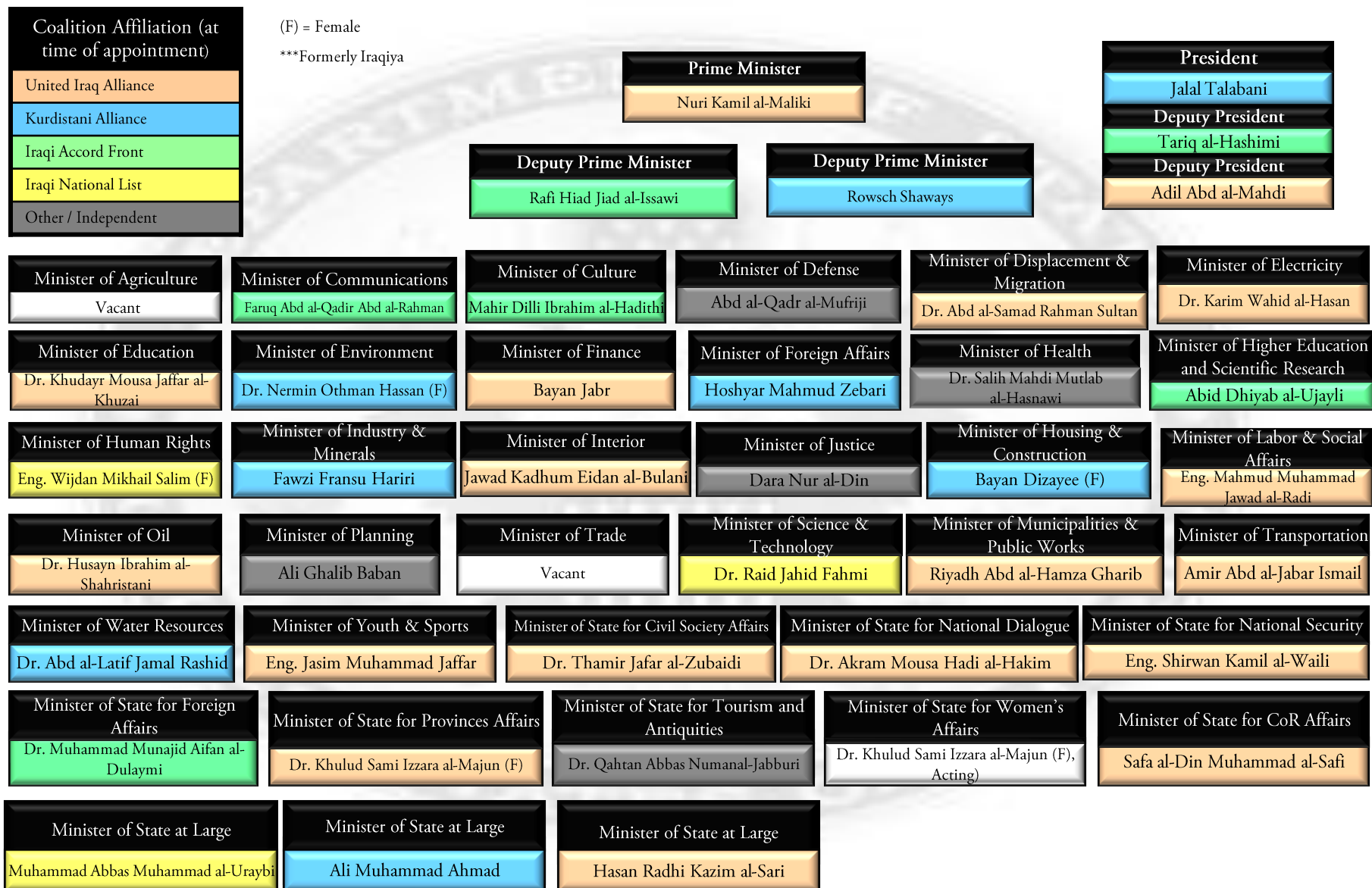
HIGHLIGHTS	3
POLITICAL	
• Governance & Legislation ( <i>Charts Only</i> )	4
SECURITY	
• Situation Update	8
DIPLOMATIC	
• Political Engagement	10
• Economic Engagement	11
ECONOMIC	
• Oil	12
• Fiscal and Monetary Affairs	14
• Public Services – Electricity	16
BEYOND BAGHDAD	17
Contact Information, Notes and Source Citations	18

## HIGHLIGHTS



- Top AQI Leader Killed During Raid (*SECURITY*, page 8)
- China and Iraq Reach Agreement on Outstanding Iraqi Debt (*DIPLOMATIC*, page 11)
- Iraq's Oil Ministry Finalizes Last Remaining Contracts (*ECONOMIC*, page 13)

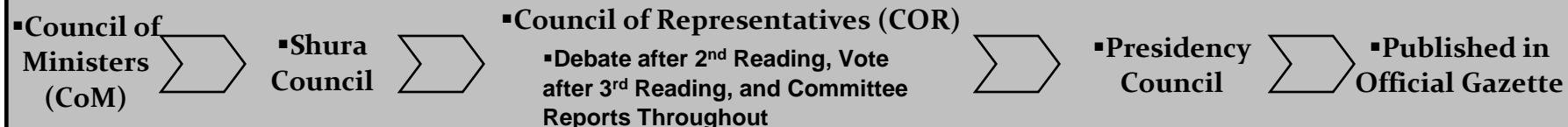
# POLITICAL – Government of Iraq





## POLITICAL – Key Legislative Issues

### Legislative Process



- **Hydrocarbons Package:** The Framework Law was resubmitted to the Oil and Gas Committee on October 26, 2008 and then returned to the Council of Ministers. There has been no progress on the other three laws in the package.
- **NGO Law:** This law will regulate the operations and funding of Non-Governmental Organizations operating within Iraq. It received its first reading in the Council of Representatives on April 20, 2009.
- **National Elections Law:** The amended election law was approved by the Presidency Council on December 6.



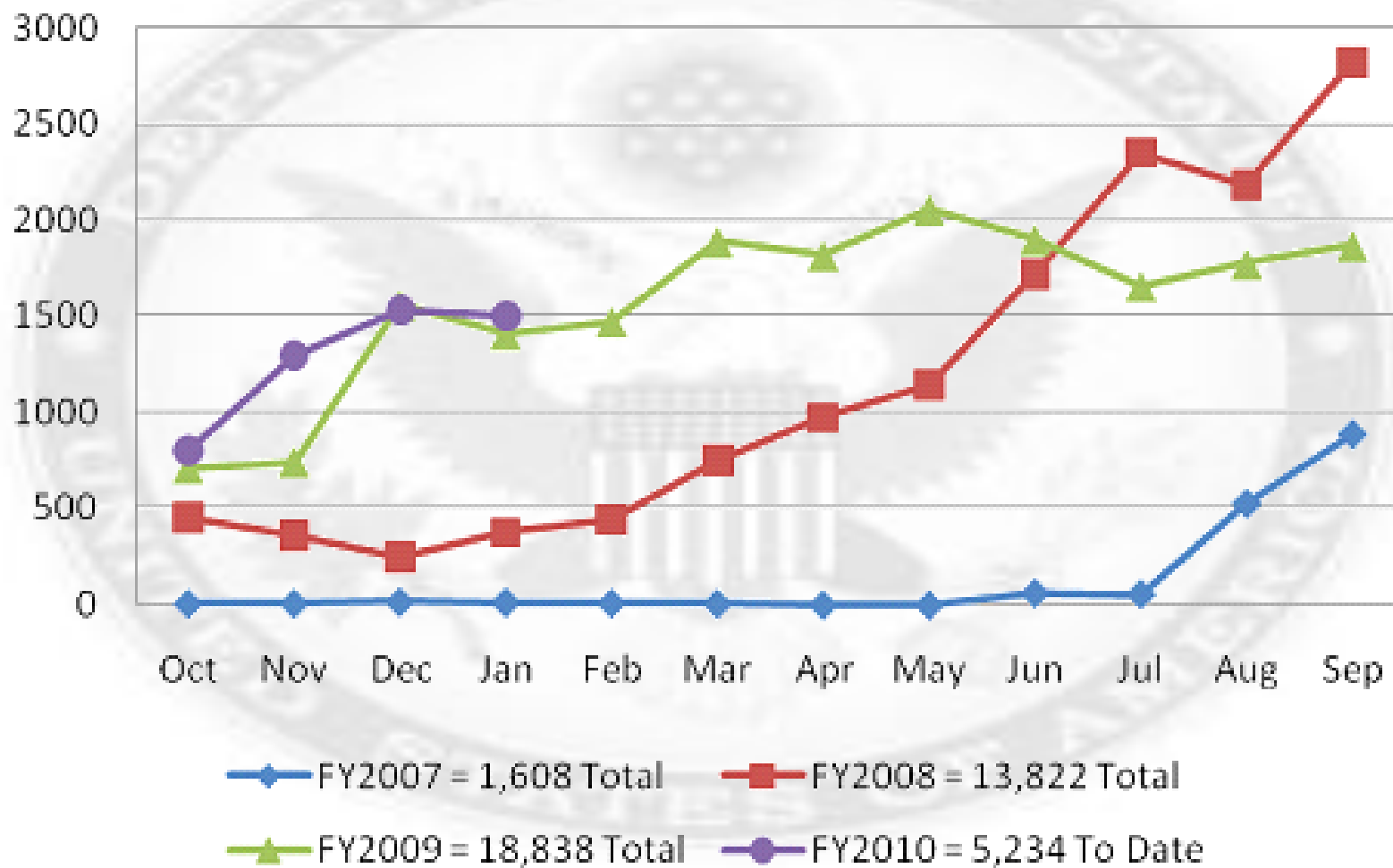
## POLITICAL - Refugee Update



- **There are approximately 295,000 Iraqi refugees currently registered with UNHCR in neighboring countries. There are likely significant numbers of unregistered refugees as well. UNHCR reports that 1.5 million Iraqis displaced by sectarian violence following the Samarra Mosque bombing of February 2006 remain internally displaced in Iraq.**
- **In FY09, the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration contributed \$ 303.4 million to international organizations and nongovernmental organizations to assist displaced Iraqis inside the country and in the region.**
- **Since the program's inception in FY07, 39,484 Iraqi refugees have been admitted for U.S. resettlement, an increase of 348 from last week. The U.S. admitted 18,838 Iraqi refugees in FY09.**
- **As of September 2009, a total of 1,606 Special Immigrant Visa (SIVs) have been issued for Iraqi translators and interpreters (and their dependents) since FY07 (under the Section 1059 program).**
- **As of September 2009, a total of 3,028 SIVs have been issued for Iraqis employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government (and their dependents) since FY08 (under the Section 1244 program).**
- **Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced July 24 that the United States was contributing more than \$100 million in new assistance to support the return and reintegration of displaced Iraqis.**

**POLITICAL - Refugee Update**

## Iraqi Admissions to the U.S.



## SECURITY – Situation Update



GOI and ISF intensify efforts to combat high profile attacks and improve security in advance of national elections

### Top AQI Leader Killed During Raid:

- The U.S. military reported on January 28 that a top AQI leader, Saad Uwayid Obeid Mijbil al-Shammari, also known as Abu Khalaf, had been confirmed killed during a joint Iraqi-U.S. operation in Mosul on January 22. Intelligence officials reported that al-Shammari was responsible for bringing hundreds of suicide bombers into Iraq across the Syrian border since 2006. He also is believed to have acted as a financier, funneling money and weapons to AQI.

### Female Suicide Bomber Kills 54 Shi'a Pilgrims:

- A female suicide bomber attacked a security checkpoint on February 1 as Shi'a pilgrims made their way to the holy city of Karbala to commemorate the end of the 40-day morning period which closes Ashura. At least 54 people were killed and 117 injured in the attack. Iraqi officials warned of increased attacks during the pilgrimage and in the lead up to the national elections.



## SECURITY – Situation Update



GOI and ISF intensify efforts to combat high profile attacks and improve security in advance of national elections

### MOI Considers Halt on Use of British Bomb Detection Device:

- Iraq's Minister of Interior, Jawad al-Bulani, recently stated that he would consider halting the use of a British bomb detection device, the ADE-651, if an investigation backs up charges that the units are ineffective. On January 27, Major General Qassim al-Moussawi, Baghdad's top military spokesman, said a committee of security officials, explosives experts, and electrical engineers will examine the device to determine its effectiveness; in the meantime, the devices will continue to be used in checkpoints around the country.

## DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement



Senior GOI officials arrive in the U.S. for meetings

### VP Hashimi Holds Talks in Washington:

- Iraqi Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi arrived in Washington to hold a series of high level meetings with U.S. Government officials. On February 1 he met with Vice President Joseph Biden to discuss parliamentary elections and ways to further strengthen bilateral relations. Vice President Hashimi also met with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates during his visit.

## DIPLOMATIC – Economic Engagement



### China and Iraq reach agreement on outstanding Iraqi debt

#### China Agrees to Cancel Iraqi Debt:

- The Chinese government agreed to cancel 80% of the \$8.5 billion debt owed by the Iraqi government. According to Iraq's Ministry of Finance the bilateral agreement was signed in Beijing and China's Ambassador to Iraq had met with officials in Baghdad to confirm the agreement. The statement added that the two countries entered into trade deals valued at \$3.8 billion in 2009.

# ECONOMIC – Oil



## Crude Oil Update:

*Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:*

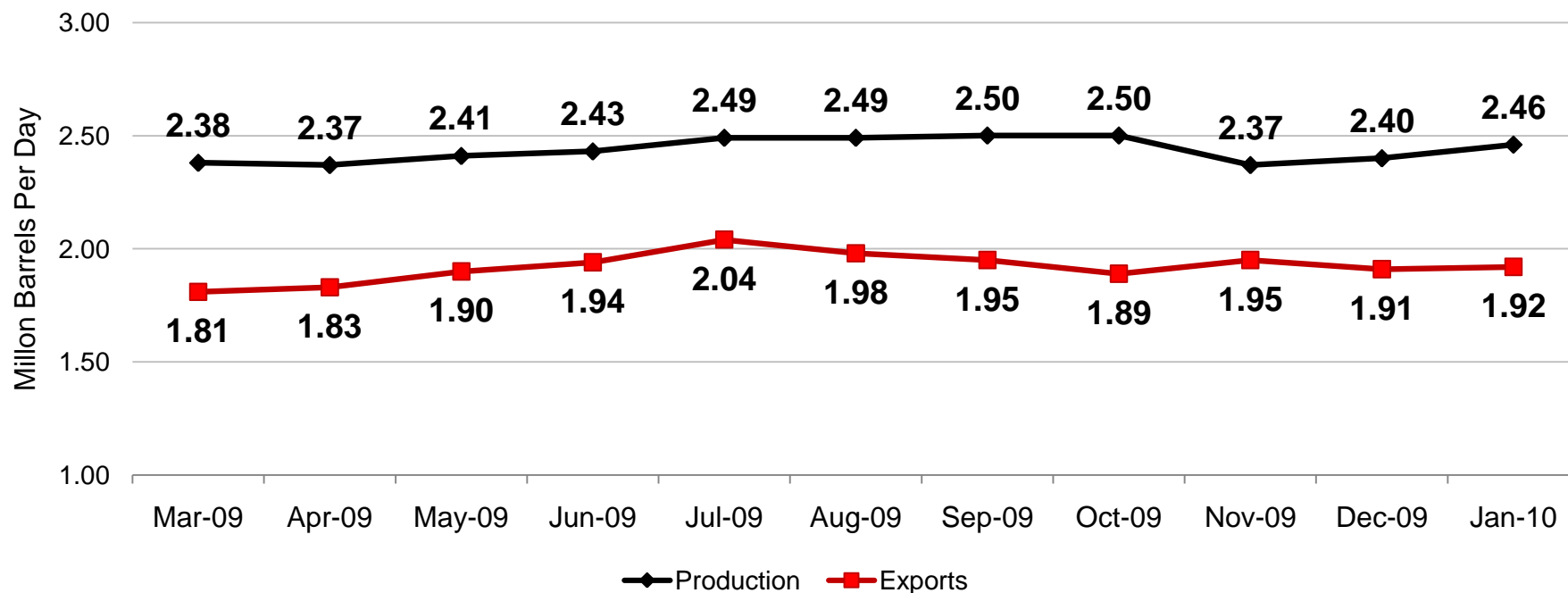
Basrah Light at \$69.61 /barrel

Dated Brent at \$71.89/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$73.97/barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$72.54/barrel

## Iraq Crude Oil Production and Exports



## Oil Revenue estimates:

**2008: \$61.9 Billion**

**2009: \$ 39.2 Billion**

**2010 (ytd): \$3.7 Billion**

\*Approximate estimate.

## ECONOMIC – Oil



All contracts awarded in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> bid rounds have been finalized

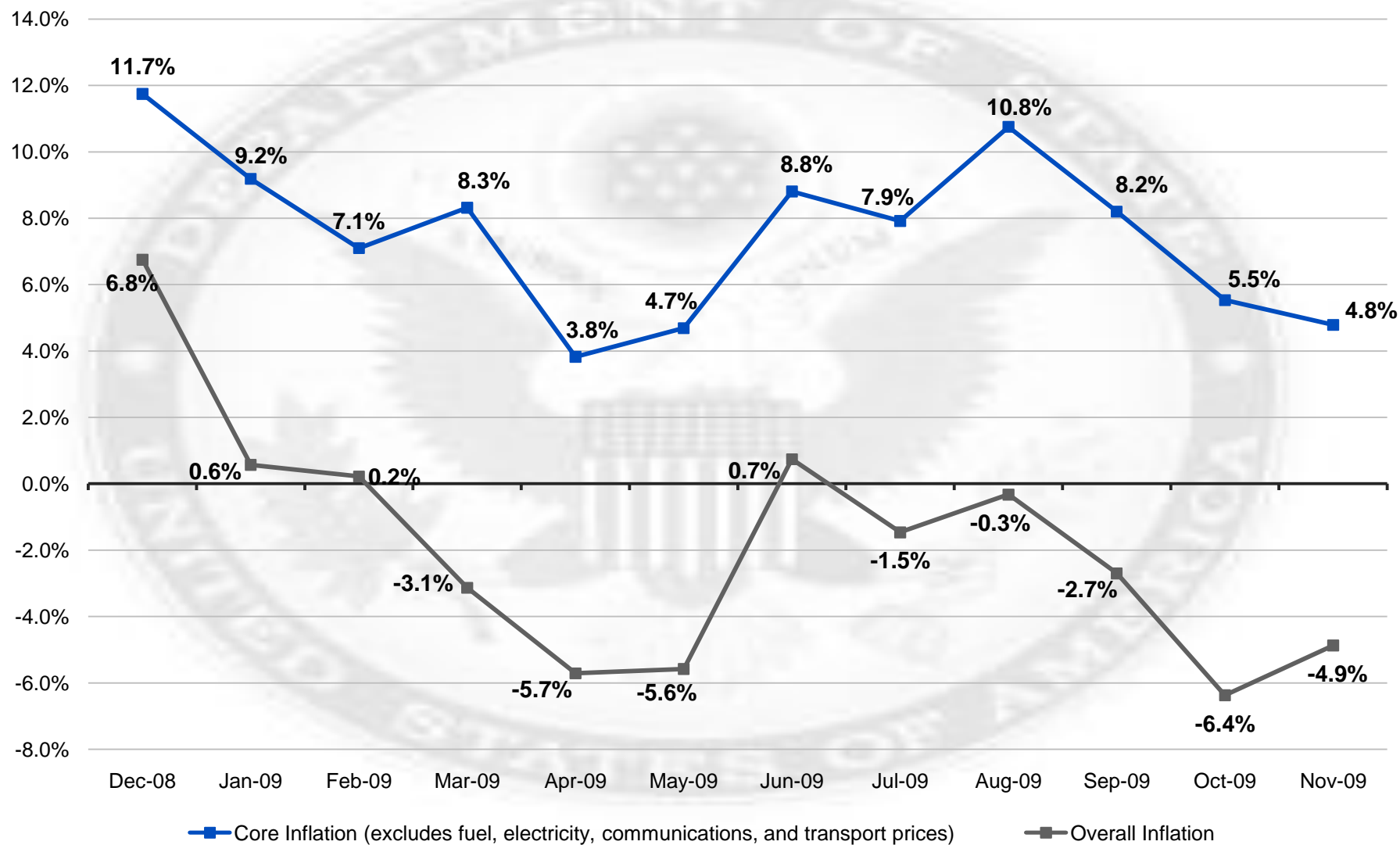
### Iraq's Oil Ministry Finalizes Last Remaining Contracts:

- The Ministry of Oil finalized the last remaining contracts for the Badra, Halfaya and West Qurna Phase 2 oil fields. The winners for Badra consist of Russia's Gazprom, Turkey's TPAO, and Korea's Kogas. The winners for Halfaya consist of China's National Petroleum Corporation, Malaysia's Petronas, and France's Total. The winners for West Qurna Phase 2 consist of Russia's Lukoil and Norway's Statoil.

# ECONOMIC - Fiscal and Monetary Affairs



## Year-on-Year Inflation





## ECONOMIC – Fiscal and Monetary Affairs



Parliament to decentralize religious tourism revenues for economy boost

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales</b>				
Price (USD)	\$79.31	\$81.43	\$76.56	\$64.50
Yield	8%	7.73%	8.36%	10.32%

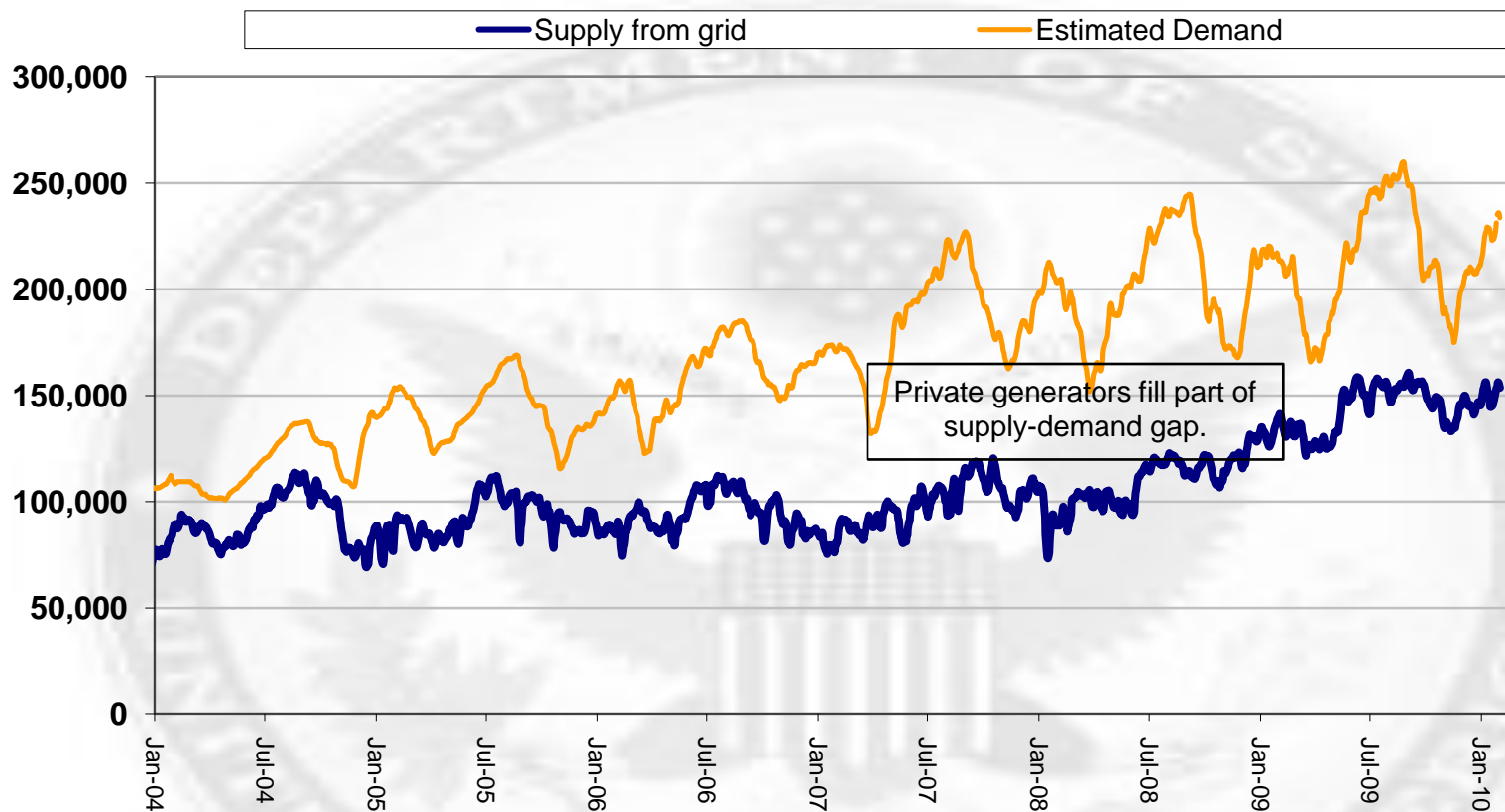
### Parliament Agrees to Direct Half of Revenues from Religious Tourism to Provinces:

- Citing religious tourism as an important aspect of Iraq's economy, the Iraqi Parliament agreed to contribute 50% of revenues from religious tourism in Karbala to that Shi'a province, and other provinces in Iraq. The head of the Karbala Provincial Council estimated that Karbala would receive around \$100 million per year as a result.



## ■ Public Services – Electricity

Daily Electricity Supplied from Grid and Estimated Demand



- Electricity supply from the grid January 21-27 was 4% above the same period in 2009 and met 66% of estimated demand, unchanged from the year-earlier period.

## Beyond Baghdad



Members of the Basrah community attending the celebration of several new electrical project in the province.

### *Basrah*

**“...we will help Iraq's institutions strengthen their capacity to protect the rule of law, confront corruption, and deliver basic services.”**

*President Barack Obama*

### *Recent Highlights*

Members of PRT Basrah, in conjunction with the 17<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade and prestigious citizens of the Basrah community, recently assembled to inaugurate the completion of 14 different projects intended to improve electricity transmission to 15 of the districts in Basrah province. The projects, funded by the PRT and military, will provided more consistent electricity to 18,000 homes and 137,000 residents and greatly reduce the number of unscheduled blackouts which occur on a regular basis. The PRT is currently in the process of working with the provincial government to develop a maintenance and operations program for the continued upkeep and improvement of the region's electrical infrastructure.

### *Wasit*

Rule of Law specialists from the Wasit PRT put together a forensic evidence seminar at the Wasit Provincial Council auditorium in downtown Al Kut on January 14. The highlight of the seminar was a presentation by former FBI special agent Mr. Ed Freyer who used a slide show and video documentary of a former murder case to outline the steps necessary for proper forensics techniques. Mr. Freyer covered the importance of forensic evidence in criminal cases and the necessary procedures for obtaining, preserving and analyzing such evidence. The seminar was attended by 64 Iraqis including a number senior police officers, provincial judges, the Chief Judge and the Chief of Police for Wasit province as well as the Provincial Council Chairman and the Governor.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.**

**For additional information, please see:**

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<http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rpt/>
- Department of State, Section 1227 Report on Iraq  
<http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rpt/>
- Department of Defense, Section 9010 Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq  
[http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/Iraq\\_Reports/index.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/Iraq_Reports/index.html)

**Please forward all questions and/or comments to:**

**[NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov](mailto:NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov)**



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- AP, January 29, <http://asia.news.yahoo.com/ap/20100128/twl-ml-iraq-bomb-detector-38359fb.html>

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- Aswat al-Iraq, February 1, <http://en.aswataliraq.info/?p=126268>

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- AFP, February 2, [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100202/wl\\_mideast\\_afp/iraqchinafinancedebt\\_20100202123349](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100202/wl_mideast_afp/iraqchinafinancedebt_20100202123349)

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- Reuters, February 1, 2010, <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60U0US20100131>

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- Aswat al-Iraq, January 27, 2010, <http://en.aswataliraq.info/?p=125968>

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- Source for Stories: US Embassy Baghdad, [http://iraq.usembassy.gov/prt\\_basra011710.html](http://iraq.usembassy.gov/prt_basra011710.html)
- -PRT Weekly Summary for the week of 011710-012310
- -Source for President Obama's Quote: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/Remarks-of-President-Barack-Obama-Responsibly-Ending-the-War-in-Iraq/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-of-President-Barack-Obama-Responsibly-Ending-the-War-in-Iraq/)